Eric K1NUN Silent Key
By Dan W1DAN

Eric K1NUN operating HF at WARS FD 2013, Needham Memorial Park. (Photo Copyright 2013 by Bill Ricker N1VUX)

On November 19th, I received an email from Mike W1RC stating that Eric K1NUN passed away the night of November 17th after Eric sent a group email about the latest Zola Center get-together. I was quite shocked, and still am. Eric was a fit and healthy person, and while he was a member of our club only about a year recently (he had also been a member in the past), Eric was an enthusiastic person, and left a mark.

W1RC created a tribute page, and here I learned about his technical expertise, his being Eastern Mass ARRL Technical Coordinator, and the fact that was Assistant Editor and he penned many articles for 73 magazine. From the Boston Globe on November 19, here is his obituary:

> *Falkof, Eric E.*
> *Of Wayland, unexpectedly on November 17, 2013. Beloved husband and best friend of Nancy (Levison) Falkof. Devoted and adored father to his son, Andy Falkof and his wife Jenni, and his daughter, Beth (Falkof) Millstein and her husband Matt. Loving Papa of Mila Falkof. Brother of Marcia Krupnikoff and son-in-law of Muriel Levison. Services at Temple Shir Tikva, 141 Boston Post Rd. (Rt. 20), Wayland, on Thursday, November 21, 2013 at 1:00 pm. Following interment at Beit Olam - East Cemetery, Wayland, memorial observance will be at his late residence until 9:00 pm with a minyan service at 7:30 pm, Friday 2-4 pm, Saturday 7-9 pm with a minyan service at 7:30 pm and Sunday 2-4 and 7-9 pm with a minyan service at 7:30 pm. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Irving K. Zola Center, 20 Hartford St., Newton Highlands, MA 02461 where Eric volunteered, or to a charity of your choice . Eric was an active amateur radio operator for 53 years.*

Here is his biography from the Eastern Mass ARRL web site:

> *Eric Falkof was first licensed in 1960, in the shadows of the Sputnik launch. After learning Morse code for the Boy Scouts, he discovered people talking to each other while he listened to an old console-style short wave radio. Within a year, he was one of those talking people and hasn't looked back since.*
> *Ham radio, he believes, is like a three-legged stool. His interests focus on the concept of ham radio as a contact sport – you cannot really know what you have done or what you are doing until you make contact with another person. 'People to people' is a fundamental aspect of hamming, and this is the first leg of the stool.*
> *Of course, there is a technical side to balance the social side, and learning through experimentation (and failing a lot!) is a second leg to the radio platform.*
> *The third side of the platform, the side that stabilizes the other two and allows them to stand up, is service. Public service justifies the other two and it is an excellent way to get out with other people, sharing this hobby we all love.*
> *Eric has worked on CW, SSB, AM, FM, SSTV, RTTY, and digital modes. He builds and operates QRP gear, and destroys "green" (military) radios while trying to revive them. He has operated mobile on HF and V/UHF. Simple antennas and stealth operation round out his curiosity, since he knows he will have to give up his tree-studded lot one day. He is an engineer at HP and lives in Wayland with his wife, Nancy, KB1OCP.*

The Zola Center is directly affected due to the passing of Eric. As center Director Donna Suskawicz emailed on November 19th:

> *It is with great sadness that I inform you of the recent, unexpected loss of Eric Falkof.*
>
> *Eric has volunteered at Zola Center for many years in the capacity of Ham Radio Club facilitator and mentor. He worked tirelessly to create and expand the program and encourage persons with disabilities to pursue ham radio as a hobby. Eric was a kind, patient, enthusiastic volunteer who worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities.*
>
> *If you never met Eric or attended a program run by him, please know that he was a valuable resource and support to Zola Center. His loss has touched us very deeply*

and left a tremendous void. Eric was an exceptional person and he made a difference in the Zola Center.

On a personal level Eric was an inspiration to me and someone I could depend on for support and guidance. It is rare to find someone with such determination, dedication and selfless energy – Eric was such a person. We have lost a great friend of the Zola Center and I morn his loss.

Donna Suskawicz
Director, Irving K. Zola Center
For Persons with Disabilities
20 Hartford Street
Newton Highlands, MA 02461

That same day, Mike W1RC emailed:

Hi Dan:

We are going to have to find someone who lives nearby, is retired and has the time and inclination to take over where he leaves off. Eric put in a great deal of time and effort for several years to bring this project to where it is today. I gather from Eric's last message that they built the antennas last Saturday and was looking forward to the December meeting to distribute the radios and power supplies.

John Flood, KB1FQG, programmed the GM300 radios and he has some of them at home. John is going over to Eric's house tonight to see Nancy and will find out where the power supplies are and if there are any coaxial cable feed line with connectors.

John and I talked about this and we have decided to do everything in our power to ensure that the December meeting goes as Eric planned. If anything needs to be acquired to make this possible NEAR-Fest will commit to buy them.

Here's the contact info for the director:

Donna Suskawicz
Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission
Somerville Area Office
5 Middlesex Avenue
Somerville, MA 02145
(617) 776-2662

73,

MrMike

His service was on November 21, and our club voted to donate $100 to the Zola Center in Eric's memory. There are plans on continuing the Zola Center radio meetings, and the next one is December 14th. I will attend, but we need to spread the management of this work across a few people from a few clubs. Please consider volunteering.

The next Zola Center meeting will be on December 14th as Eric had planned. I will be there along with Mike W1RC. I hope you can attend to help continue Eric's legacy.

Eric was a "giver". He constantly did things for others, and did not think of himself. Many people will miss his excitement about people and ham radio. The following links may be of interest:

http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/bostonglobe/obituary.aspx?n=eric-e-falkof&pid=168089258&fhid=20836

http://forum.near-fest.com/index.php?topic=1071.msg2624#msg2624

http://www.wickedlocal.com/newton/news/x1760084198/Amateur-radio-gives-Newtons-Zola-Center-another-outlet

http://mikeyancey.com/73mag/listauthor.php?Author=k1nun

Eric at the Zola Center station he created (Wicked Local Staff photo by Erin Prawoko)